

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned reviewed the pending Office Action carefully, before preparing this response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, in light of the positions presented herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by Carnes. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's concern, but respectfully disagree. Without limitation, Carnes does not describe nanoparticulates assembled at a fluid component interface. As such, there is no anticipation. The rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as unpatentable over Carnes. Again, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's concern, but respectfully disagree. Section 103 requires that obviousness be determined on the basis of the claim "subject matter as a whole." In this case, it appears the Examiner did not consider all elements of independent claim 18. Without limitation, for reasons of the sort discussed above, there is no *prima facie* obviousness. Again, this rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Applicants appreciate the allowability of claims 21 and 30. Responsive thereto, without prior art concern and to expedite prosecution, new independent claims 33 and 46 are hereby presented: claim 33 reflecting incorporation of the subject matter of dependent claims 20 and 21 into claim 18, and claim 46 reflecting incorporation of the subject matter of claim 30 into claim 18. Accordingly, independent claims 33 and 46, together with the respective dependent claims, are supported by the original specification and do not introduce new matter.

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Consistent therewith, favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to

contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain. Thank you for your help and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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